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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

Bloodshot's Back in Circulation

When launching a new series, most publishers offer a short, punchy, high-concept synopsis so that readers instantly know the hero's identity, his mission, and even his motives.

That's not the formula that Valiant is taking with ***Bloodshot,*** however. Quite the contrary... and with good reason! "The funny thing is, even Bloodshot doesn't know just who he is," writer *Duane Swierczynski* (who is joined on ***Bloodshot*** by artists *Manuel Garcia & Arturo Lozzi)* said. "The reader's going to be along for the journey as he figures it out. I want this to be a classic *noir* amnesia story... that suddenly finds itself in the middle of a wildly violent *Sam Peckinpah*-style action flick."

Does that mean that Bloodshot is no longer Angelo Mortalli? "'Angelo Mortalli' is a name that Bloodshot may have used once, but that's not his real name," Swierczynski said. So how much of the old Bloodshot story *is* Swierczynski keeping, if he's abandoning the old identity?"Another funny thing: *all of it*. You'll know what I mean when you read the first issue."

For Valiant CEO *Jason Kothari*, there was no doubt that ***Bloodshot*** had to be a part of the first wave of Valiant titles. "As a die-hard Valiant fan growing up, Bloodshot was one of my favorite characters, from his first appearance in ***Rai #0*** through the conclusion of his dynamic ongoing series," Kothari said. "Warren spent a great deal time assembling a dream team of talent to capture the full potential of what ***Bloodshot*** could be. Duane, Manuel, and Arturo are a killer combination on this series. This book that takes the concept of the action hero to all-new heights, and there are plenty of shocking twists in store for new and old readers alike - you've *never* seen anything quite like this before."

Some have characterized Bloodshot as "Valiant's Punisher." Is Bloodshot more than that? "I'm a lifelong Punisher fan, and I wrote an arc of ***Punisher MAX*** for Marvel a few years ago," Swierczynski said, "and I can tell you that the two characters couldn't be more different. The Punisher is all too aware of his tragic past and his current mission; for Bloodshot, the mystery and action begins to unfold the moment he opens his eyes... and when he finds out what's been done to him—well, let's just say it'll make the Punisher's campaign of vengeance seem like a preteen hissy fit. Also, the Punisher wouldn't last fifteen minutes up against Project Bloodshot."

Is he, as the solicitation information implies, a man on the run? And if so, who's trying to capture him? "Well, I'm not sure the organizations interested in Project Bloodshot would quite describe it that way," Swierczynski said. "In fact, one of them might claim they simply want to *liberate* this poor, tortured soul."

Just who *are* these forces in conflict with Bloodshot, and what do they want from him? "You're asking some pretty serious questions here, some of which I'm not at liberty to reveal. It may be dinnertime, but I'm not about to risk eating a bullet by saying too much!" Swierczynski joked.

Project Bloodshot sounds very military... Exactly what is it? *"These days, a lot of military operations depend on the humble* Predator drone. But there are some missions so dangerous, that require so much human finesse, that you can't rely on some dumb ol' robot plane," Swierczynski explained. "You need someone who can blend into any environment, survive horrific amounts of bodily damage, and terminate with extreme prejudice. That's when you need to send in Project Bloodshot..."

How much of a role will the military angle play in ***Bloodshot***? Obviously, the military is regarded differently in 2012 than it was in the 1990s; does that impact the structure and approach of the story?

"This was one of the things that Duane and I discussed at length at the beginning of the ***Bloodshot*** pitch, particularly that you have members of the Armed Forces serving multiple tours, and just what that means to them and their families," Executive Editor *Warren Simons* explained. "As we peel back more layers of Bloodshot, we'll see more about his past, and get a deeper understanding of the character. I think most Americans, regardless of political affiliation, have an incredibly deep sense of gratitude and respect for the Armed Forces, and the sacrifices the soldiers make on a daily basis. So in time, we very well might explore some facets of these sacrifices."

Can readers expect to see other Valiant characters and/or concepts showing up in the early issues of ***Bloodshot***? "Yes," Simons confirmed. "If you keep your eyes open, you'll see numerous cameos and first appearances from certain characters in each of our first four titles. Also, the opening pages of ***Bloodshot*** will have profound repercussions on the universe for the next year. While all of these are self-contained stories—you don't need the other titles to understand each issue—we *are* weaving a larger tapestry here."

A third book, a third launch, and a third heroic adventure genre—it's no accident that each of Valiant's initial books has a very different "look and feel," is it? "It's absolutely no accident," Chief Creative Officer *Dinesh Shamdasani* said. "We wanted readers to experience a different corner of the Valiant Universe with each of our launch titles. ***X-O Manowar*** is epic science fiction, ***Harbinger*** introduces the mythology of psionics, ***Archer & Armstrong*** is a buddy comedy, and ***Bloodshot*** is a wrecking ball unleashed on the universe. We're incredibly excited about ***Bloodshot***; it's the type of book you rarely see these days—a no holds barred, testosterone-fueled mind trip!"

Valiant has done an amazing job of putting together all-star teams for each series thus far--and it looks like a lot of effort went into enlisting just the right creative team for each character, focusing on each creator's strengths and predilections. How much advance work went into talent recruiting? "Thank you for the kind words," Simons said. "Recruiting talent and casting the books are two key components of the gig, so a *lot* of time and energy went into these facets of the launch. In the past, I had the opportunity to work closely with some of the writers and artists launching our titles, and *I knew they were pros who were committed to creating exceptional* comics. Some of the other creators I'd never worked with before, but felt they had exceptional voices and would be great matches for our characters. A lot of this comes down to gut instinct, as any editor will tell you. I think we are very lucky to have a great group of committed freelancers who are creating some amazing work."

After the launch of these four titles, does Valiant focus on putting out a few more issues before launching the next wave, or does the publisher continue with monthly launches from here? "In addition to the four titles launching this summer—***X-O Manowar*** in May, ***Harbinger*** in June, ***Bloodshot*** in July and ***Archer & Armstrong*** in August—we have another that we will launch before the end of the year," Shamdasani said. "It's a book that fans have been screaming for and it's shaping up to be a absolutely killer!"

Valiant did a talking hero variant cover for ***X-O #1***, a talking villain variant for ***Harbinger #1***--is there anything similar in store for ***Bloodshot***? "Hats off to our editorial team – ***Bloodshot #1*** boasts an amazingly strong roster of cover artists," Valiant Marketing and Communications Manager *Hunter Gorinson* said. "Rising star *Arturo Lozzi*, who is also handling a portion of the interior art, contributed a piece for our standard edition that fans are already calling one of the most iconic Valiant images ever produced. *Mico Suayan* stepped up to contribute a fantastic cover of Bloodshot, gun blazing, for the next in our line of Pullbox Exclusive Variants. Then, we have the great *David Aja* — who played a major role in redesigning ***Bloodshot*** for the relaunch – and the incomparable *Esad Ribic* each contributing a striking incentive variant."

Valiant has gotten off to an amazingly strong start; does the publisher have plans that will enable them to maintain that momentum a few months out? "With the release of ***X-O Manowar #1***, the 'Summer of Valiant' kicked off in a big, big way," Gorinson said. "But we're just getting started! Although we're very much a universe, you'll soon see that each title we're releasing has a very different tone and a

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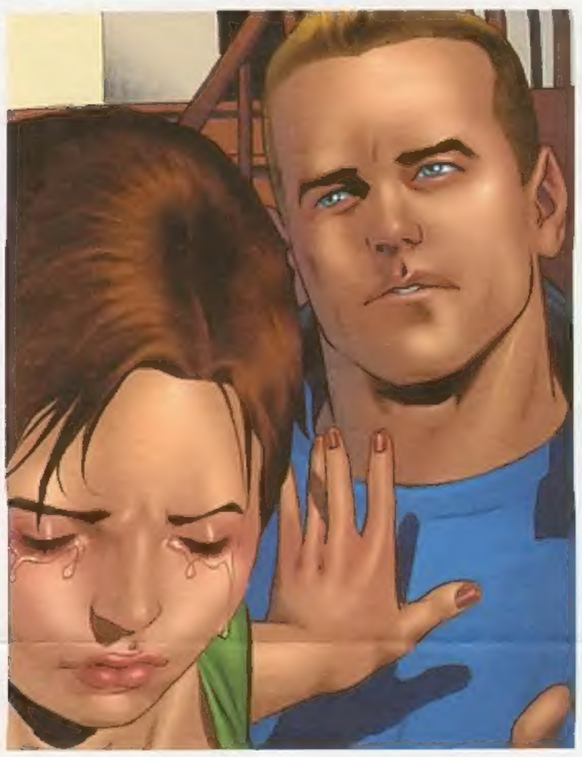
very different scope. ***Bloodshot***, for instance, is based around a central mystery: who is this guy and how did he get this way? It's going to be open part slow burn and one part all-out sprint as we race toward the major revelations about Bloodshot, the exact nature of Project Rising Spirit, and where they both fall within larger Valiant Universe.

"And after readers have jumped on board for all four of new series, just wait until they see what we have in store for the fall! Valiant still has some big surprises in store that *no one* is going to see coming."

In its original incarnation, Valiant was not only a line of books, it was also a publishing entity that established a close-knit sense of family with its readers (much the same way that Marvel did with its early Silver Age Marvel Bullpen and its friendly camaraderie with its readers). Will the new Valiant go for that same feel? "Absolutely!" Gorinson said. "Whether it's on the floor at cons, in our letters columns, or through social media, we *love* interacting with our readers. Fans are lifeblood of Valiant, and we're determined to engage them on every possible level.



"It's the Valiant fans who have been our ambassadors to retailers and comicdom at large, spreading the word when many had forgotten what made Valiant such a special and unique voice in the world of comics. We regularly see those guys when we're on the road and they're very much a part of the extended Valiant family. Now, thanks to the successful launch of ***X-O Manowar*** and ***Harbinger***—and soon ***Bloodshot*** and ***Archer & Armstrong***—we have that many more to keep in touch with! So I say find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, write in about your favorite books, and stay in touch with Valiant directly via our online newsletter, The Valiant Voice. We want to hear from you!"

Bloodshot #1, a $3.99 comic by *Duane Swierczynski, Manual Garcia, & Arturo Lozzi,* with covers by Lozzi, *Mico Suayan, David Aja, & Esad Ribic,* is scheduled for July 11th release.

by Cliff Biggers

The following comics and comics-related books are tentatively slated for release on the dates given, based on the latest information provided by the publishers at press-time. If no date is listed, the books are scheduled for release sometime in the month of July. Diamond Comic Distributors' code numbers are included for ease of ordering.

•**2000 AD #1790** 7/4 Rebellion MAY121253 $5.25
•**2000 AD #1791** 7/11 Rebellion MAY121254 $5.25
•**2000 AD #1792** 7/18 Rebellion MAY121255 $5.25
•**2000 AD #1793** Rebellion MAY121256 $5.25
•**68 SCARS #4 (OF 4)** 7/18 Image MAY120593 $3.99
•**ABSOLUTE FINAL CRISIS HC** 7/18 DC DEC110288 $99.99
Deluxe slipcased collected edition of Grant Morrison's Final Crisis #s 1-7 and much more, including original pages produced especially for this edition
•**ACTION COMICS #11** 7/4 DC MAY120212 $3.99
Superman's new secret identity is revealed, courtesy of Grant Morrison
•**ACTIVITY #7** 7/18 Image MAY120595 $3.50
•**ADVENTURE TIME #6** Boom MAY120994 $3.99
•**ADVENTURE TIME: MARCELINE—SCREAM QUEENS #1** Boom MAY120990 $3.99
Adventure time spinoff starring Marceline & Princes Bubblegum
•**AFTER THE FIRE 100 PG SPECTACULAR** 7/4 IDW MAY120452 $7.99
•**AFTERSCHOOL CHARISMA TP VOL 6** 7/18 Viz APR121302 $12.99
•**AGE OF APOCALYPSE #5** 7/4 Marvel MAY120707 $2.99
•**AIRBOY DEADEYE #4 (OF 5)** 7/25 Antarctic MAY120823 $3.99
•**ALABASTER WOLVES #4 (OF 5)** 7/11 Dark Horse MAY120051 $3.50
•**ALICE IN THE COUNTRY CLOVER CHESHIRE CAT WALTZ GN** 7/4 Seven Seas APR121215 $12.99
•**ALICE IN WONDERLAND HC** Zenescope MAY121379 $24.99
•**ALL STAR WESTERN #11** 7/25 DC MAY120263 $3.99
Jonah Hex and Tallulah Black face the Lord of Assassins' steam-powered death machine
•**ALTER EGO #111** 7/11 TwoMorrows MAY121420 $8.95
Spotlighting the Golden Age Nedor heroes
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #689** 7/4 Marvel MAY120666 $3.99
Spidey confronts the Lizard
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #690** 7/18 Marvel MAY120668 $3.99
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN BY RAMOS POSTER** 7/11 Marvel MAY120785 $8.99
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN MOVIE LIZARD BUST** 7/25 Diamond Select MAR121598 $79.99
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN MOVIE PROTO SPIDER-MAN BUST** 7/25 Diamond Select MAR121599 $79.99
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN MOVIE SPIDER-MAN BUST** 7/25 Diamond Select MAR121597 $79.99
•**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN MOVIE STATUE** 7/25 Diamond Select MAR121596 $125.00
•**AMERICAN ELF TP VOL 4: SKETCHBOOK & DIARIES OF JAMES KOCHALKA** Top Shelf MAY121295 $24.95
•**AMERICAN VAMPIRE #29** 7/25 Vertigo/DC MAY120320 $2.99
•**AMERICAN VAMPIRE: LORD OF NIGHTMARES #2 (OF 5)** 7/11 Vertigo/DC MAY120319 $2.99

•**ANGEL & FAITH #12** 7/25 Dark Horse MAY120049 $2.99
•**ANGEL PARA BELLUM GN VOL 1** 7/4 Seven Seas APR121216 $11.99
•**ANIMAL LAND GN VOL 5** 7/11 Kodansha APR121129 $10.99
•**ANIMAL MAN #11** 7/4 DC MAY120251 $2.99
The stunning conclusion of 'Extinction Is Forever'
•**ANT-MAN SEASON ONE PREMIUM HC** 7/11 Marvel APR120701 $24.99
Tom DeFalco & Horacio Domingues present a look a the origins of the original Agenger, Ant-Man
•**ANTI #1** 7/18 12-Gauge MAY121301 $1.00
•**AQUAMAN #11** 7/25 DC MAY120201 $2.99
The Others catch up with Black Manta - but are they really united as a team?
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•**ARCHIE DOUBLE DIGEST #231** 7/4 Archie MAY120845 $3.99
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•**ARISA GN VOL 8** 7/25 Kodansha APR121130 $10.99
•**ARMY OF DARKNESS ONGOING #6** Dynamite MAY121058 $3.99
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•**AVENGELYNE ANNUAL #1** 7/25 Image MAY120520 $2.99
•**AVENGERS #28** 7/25 Marvel MAY120649 $3.99
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•**AVENGERS ACADEMY #33** 7/18 Marvel MAY120650 $2.99
AVX tie-in
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The secret behind Avengers Assemble is revealed by Bendis and Bagley... but what does it mean for the future of the Marvel Universe?
•**AVENGERS ASSEMBLE TP VOL 4** 7/4 Marvel APR120729 $34.99
•**AVENGERS VS X-MEN #7 (OF 12)** 7/4 Marvel MAY120637 $3.99
Cyclops changes the game with these three words: 'No More Avengers!'
•**AVENGERS VS X-MEN #8 (OF 12)** 7/18 Marvel MAY120643 $3.99
An out-of-control Namor invades Wakanda in pursuit of the Avengers, and a shocking truth stands revealed that may cause fractures in the X-Men's alliance!
•**AVENGERS WEST COAST: ZODIAC ATTACK PREMIUM HC** 7/4 Marvel FEB120648 $29.99
•**AVENGERS: WEST COAST AVENGERS TP—FAMILY TIES** 7/18 Marvel MAY120779 $29.99
•**AVENGING SPIDER-MAN #9** 7/11 Marvel MAY120670 $3.99
Guest-starring the new Captain Marvel
•**AVX VS #4 (OF 6)** 7/11 Marvel MAY120635 $3.99
AVX tie-in
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•**B & V FRIENDS DOUBLE DIGEST #227** 7/11 Archie MAY120848 $3.99
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Focuses on JLA in the Bronze Age
•**BAD MEDICINE #3** 7/11 Oni MAY121233 $3.99
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•**BAKUMAN TP VOL 12** 7/4 Viz APR121260 $9.99
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Conclusion to "Court of Owls"
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BATMAN BLACK & WHITE STATUE: DARWYN COOKE 7/11 DC Collectibles APR120307 $89.95
•**BATMAN INCORPORATED #3** 7/25 DC MAY120220 $2.99
Presenting the New 52 debut of... Matches Malone?...
•**BATMAN: ARKHAM UNHINGED #4** 7/11 DC MAY120272 $2.99

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SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

HARDY LAUREL, NEWLY UNEMPLOYED ACTOR, IS NOT A HAPPY CAMPER...
HOW DARE THOSE FOOLS FIRE ME!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-28
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•**BLEACH TP VOL 43** 7/4 Viz APR121264 $9.99
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Duane Swierczynski, Manuel Garcia, & Arturo Lozzi introduce the new Bloodshot in this series debut
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•**BLOODY CHESTER GN** 7/4 First Second MAY121156 $18.99
•**BLUE BEETLE #11** 7/18 DC MAY120265 $2.99
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After chasing his dogs through a time-travel portal, Burt finds himself on Pluto where he must thwart evil plans to switch the planet's orbit with the Earth's
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•**CAPE 1969 #1 (OF 4)** 7/18 IDW MAY120426 $3.99
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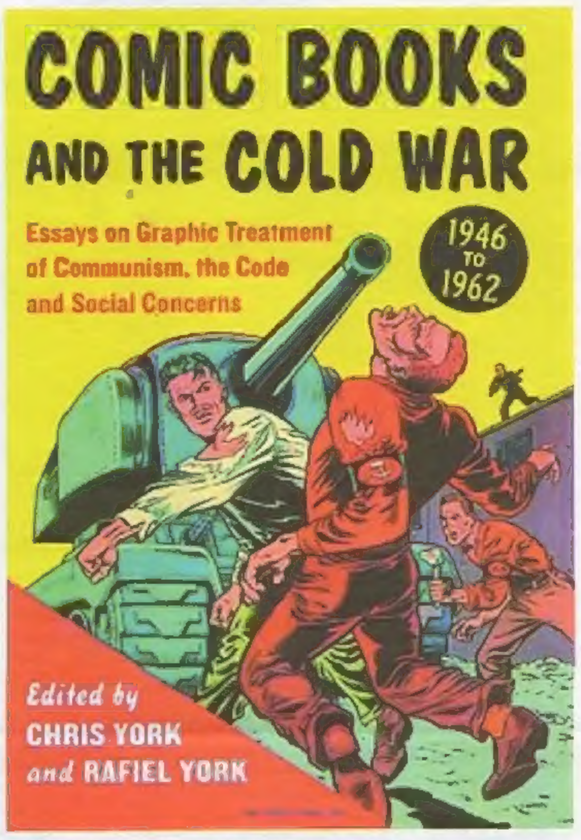
•**CLASSIC MARVEL FIGURE COLLECTORS MAGAZINE SPECIAL TERRAX** Eaglemoss MAY121414 $32.00
•**CLAYMORE TP VOL 20** 7/4 Viz APR121265 $9.99
•**COBRA ONGOING #15** 7/25 IDW MAY120439 $3.99



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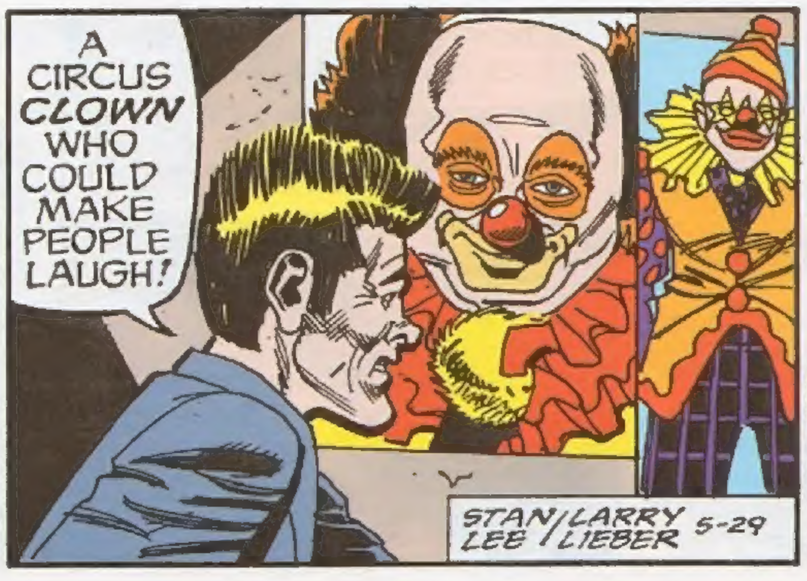

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When a brilliant young boy named Denny solves the most perplexing puzzle in the history of mankind, he and his caretaker sister, Jenna, are transported to the fantastic land of Gossamyr, where math is magic and the boy's unique condition gives him incredible power.
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In a city where technology is stuck in the analog '70s and danger lurks around every corner, haunted war veteran Foster becomes the guardian of a 6 year-old boy targeted by a primal race of supernatural monsters in this tale by Brian Buccellato & Noel Tauzon
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Frankenstein & Nina are swallowed by the Leviathan
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Steve Niles & Bernie Wrightson continue Mary Shelley's tale
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•**FURY OF FIRESTORM: THE NUCLEAR MEN #11** 7/25 DC MAY120209 $2.99
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It is the far future; the human race has finally colonized the galaxy, preserving an era of prosperity that's only possible because of The Hypernaturals. Problem is, they have all mysteriously vanished. Now, as the galaxy teeters on the brink of chaos, it's up to a group of retired and long forgotten Hypernaturals — and their novice recruits — to save the galaxy from complete destruction in this series by Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning
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Stark and the Mandarin, face to face
•**INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #521** 7/18 Marvel MAY120684 $3.99
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Thanks to the original writing staff of the television series, Jericho is back with a vengeance, with a whole new chapter of stories told in the show's official continuity
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Fredrik Stromberg explores how Jewish culture has historically been depicted in comics
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Mad versions of DC heroes
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Batman , Cyborg and Aquaman battle Element Woman as "The Villain's Journey" continues, courtesy of Alex Ross & Jim Lee
•**JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK #11** 7/25 DC MAY120252 $2.99
The secrets of the Black Room revealed
•**JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #11** 7/4 DC MAY120196 $2.99
The team is defeated at the hands of The Burners - and not everyone will escape this epic alive!
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•**LADY DEATH (ONGOING) TP VOL 2** Boundless MAY120997 $19.99
•**LAST ZOMBIE: NEVERLAND TP** 7/25 Antarctic MAY120814 $14.95
•**LEGEND OF BOLD RILEY GN** 7/18 Northwest MAY121226 $29.99
•**LEGION LOST #11** 7/11 DC MAY120268 $2.99
The team must decide how to stop their future from being destroyed by their actions in the present
•**LEGION OF SUPER HEROES #11** 7/18 DC MAY120269 $2.99
The Legion - betrayed!
•**LIFE WITH ARCHIE #21** 7/11 Archie APR120809 $3.99
•**LIL DEPRESSED BOY #15** 7/25 Image MAY120616 $2.99
•**LITTLE HEROES GN** 215 Ink MAY121303 $10.99
•**LORD OF THE JUNGLE #8** Dynamite MAY121081 $3.99
•**LOST ART OF AH POOK HERE HC: IMAGES FROM THE GN** Fantagraphics MAY121128 $35.00
•**MAD PRESENTS BATMAN #1** 7/18 Mad/DC MAY120311 $5.99
Collecting Mad's various Bat-spoofs
•**MAGIC THE GATHERING: SPELL THIEF #3** 7/25 IDW MAY120448 $4.99
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•**MAN I PICKED UP GN** Digital Manga MAY121096 $12.95
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Marie Severin tribute contains revealing and often amusing insights of her close friends including Stan Lee, Al Feldstein, Roy Thomas, John Romita, Jack Davis, Jack Kamen, Tony Isabella, Gene Colan, Jim Mooney, Joe Sinnott, Mark Evanier, and David Anthony Kraft, plus an extensive commentary by Marie herself.
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Collects FF #72-81 and Annual #6.
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•**NATHAN HALE'S HAZARDOUS TALES GN VOL 2: BIG BAD IRONCLAD** 7/18 Amulet MAY120810 $12.95
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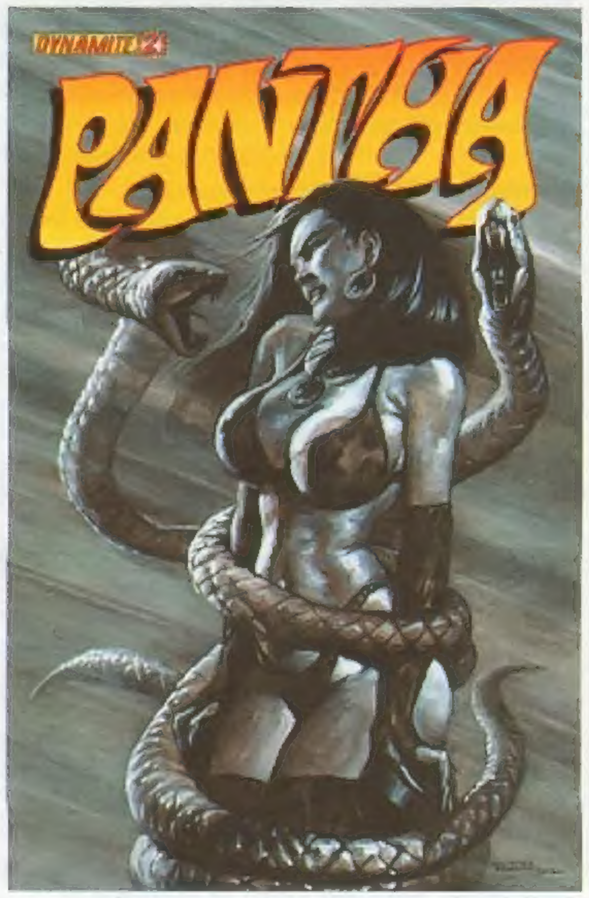

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•**PUNISHER BY RICK REMENDER OMNIBUS HC** 7/4 Marvel FEB120644 $99.99
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Brother Blood is here!
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The Outlaws take on Blackfire and her new allies, the Blight
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Atrocitus continues his lone search for Abysmus and more poisoned members of his corps die
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For one day in rural central Wisconsin, the dead came back to life. Now it's up to Officer Dana Cypress to deal with the media scrutiny, religious zealots, and government quarantine that has come with them
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Leslie Charteris rogueish thief makes his Moonstone debut
•**SAKURAN GN VOL 1** Vertical Inc MAY121319 $16.95
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•**SECRET LIVES OF JULIE NEWMAR #3 (OF 4)** Bluewater MAY120927 $3.99
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Garth Ennis continues his kickoff Shadow tale
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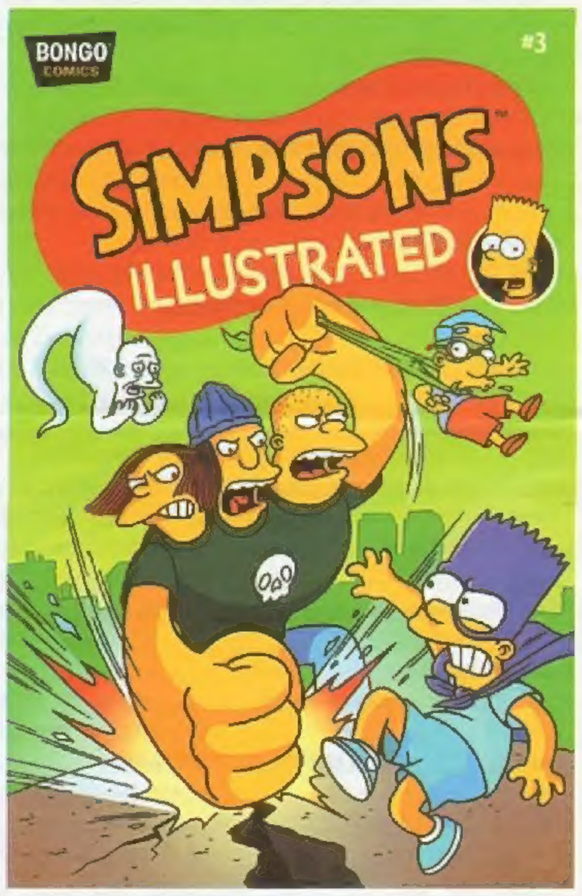

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•**SPIDER-MAN: COMPLETE BEN REILLY EPIC TP BOOK 5** 7/18 Marvel MAY120744 $39.99
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Brian Michael Bendis & Sara Pichelli continue the tale that unites Peter Parker and Miles Morales
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The team takes on both Daleks and the Borg
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Sith Lord Darth Maul still lives. Worse, he has joined forces with his brother Savage Opress!
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There is a shadow organization as old as Stormwatch.. but who are they and what secrets do

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they hold?

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Who is the traitor on the team?

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Superboy's spent his whole short life in the clutches of N.O.W.H.E.R.E. - so now that he's free, where will he live?

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It's Supergirl's first date on Earth - which means it's time for a new villain to attack

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A powerful and violent being from a different dimension has been mistakenly brought to Earth - and only Superman can stop it!

•**SUPERMAN FAMILY ADVENTURES #3** 7/25 DC MAY120305 $2.99

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•**SUPREME #66** 7/4 Image MAY120630 $2.99

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Stan Mack looks at the original tax revolt in this irreverent historical comic

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Wonder Girl's past revealed

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The Ranger and Tonto are in the crossfire as a bloody Kiowa uprising draws these western legends onto the warpath in this miniseries by Chuck Dixon

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AVX tie-in

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Brandon Jerwa takes over as writer

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AVX tie-in

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Fred Perry & Brian Denham tell the tale of a middle-school boy who finds himself zombified (as if middle school could get worse!)

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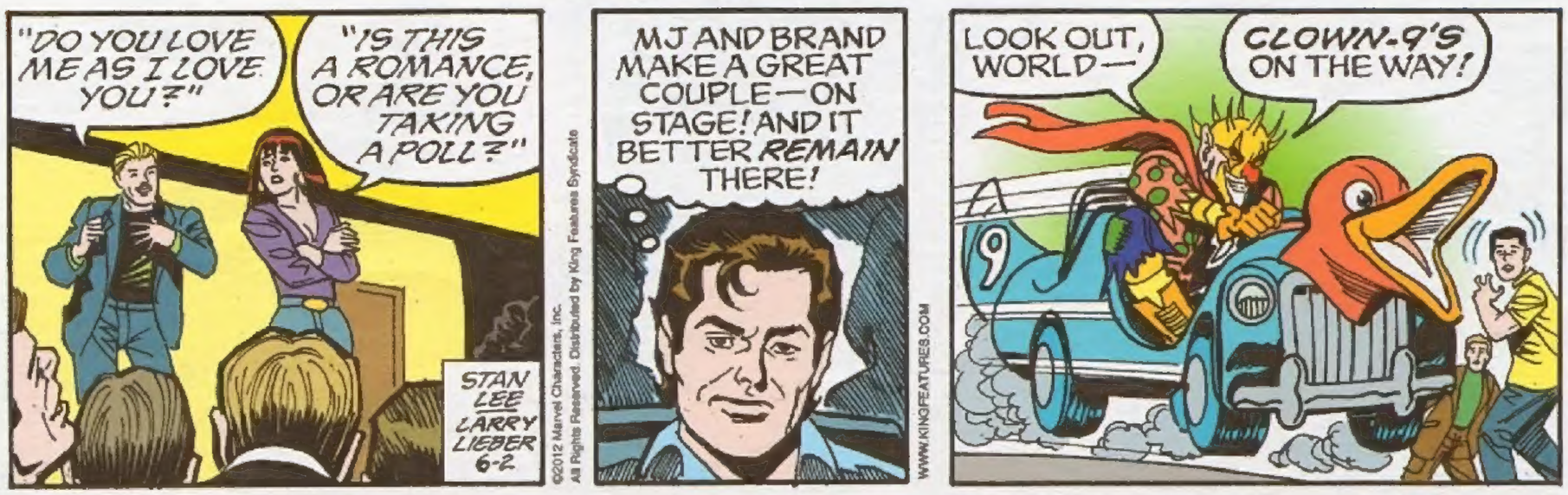
"DO YOU LOVE ME AS I LOVE YOU?"
"IS THIS A ROMANCE, OR ARE YOU TAKING A POLL?"
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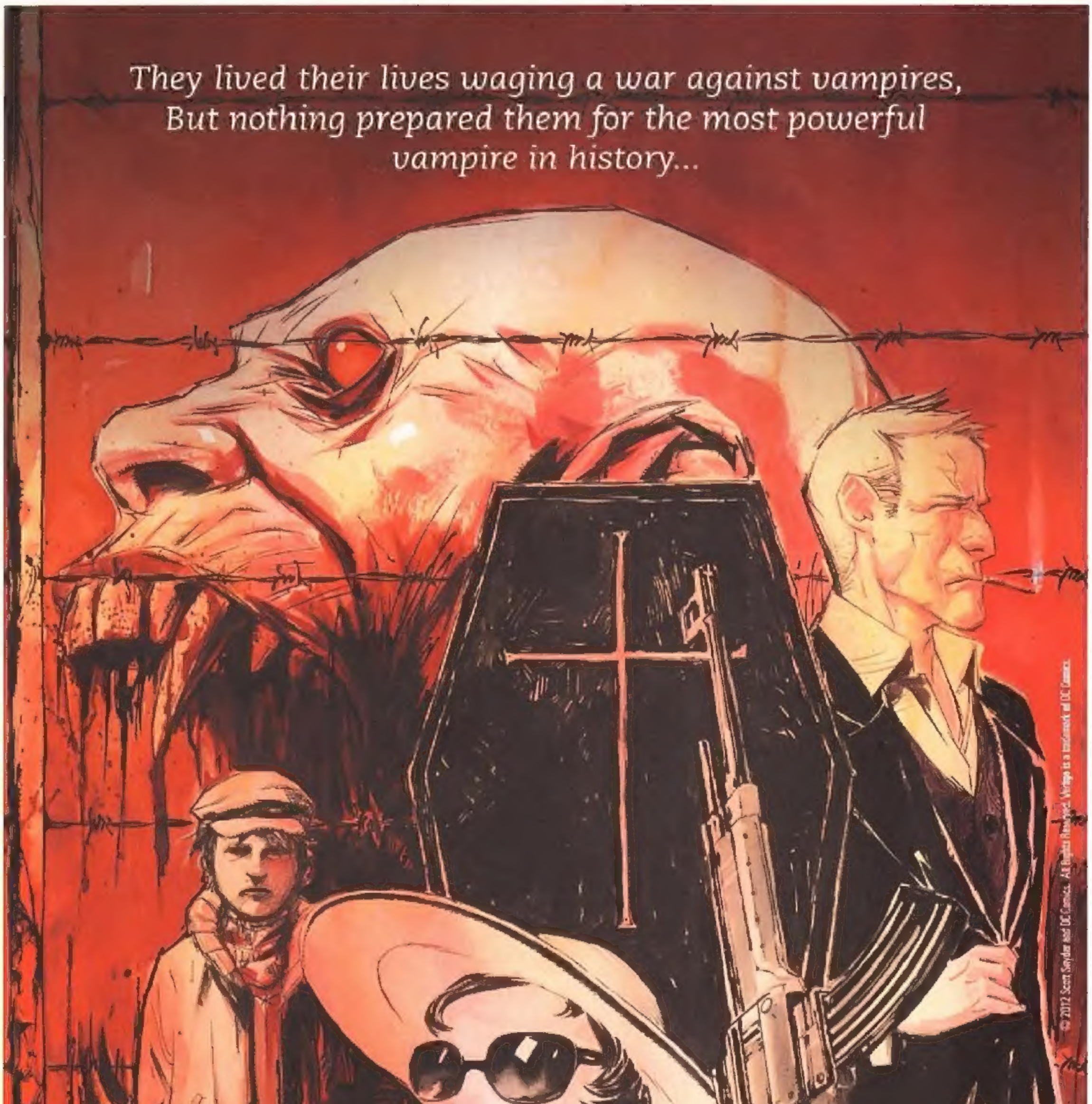

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